

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 169024
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 169024

FOLLOWING REPEAT NEW DELHI 10211 TO SECSTATE JUL 19

QUOTE CONFIDENTIAL NEW DELHI 10211

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CHRISTOPHER, WARREN)

SUBJECT: CHRISTOPHER VISIT: ADDITION TO SCHEDULE

1. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY HAS SUGGESTED THAT WE SCHEDULE A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, V. SHANKAR. IT WOULD BE A SMALL MEETING PROBABLY WITH ONLY FOREIGN SECRETARY MEHTA AND SHANKAR PRESENT ON THE INDIAN SIDE. UNFORTUNATELY, SHANKAR MUST LEAVE TOWN AT NOON AND THEREFORE WE HAVE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED THE MEETING AT 10:45.

2. ALTHOUGH THIS IS EARLIER THAN WE HAD PLANNED TO START THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S DAY, WE BELIEVE A MEETING WITH SHANKAR AND MEHTA COULD BE QUITE IMPORTANT. SHANKAR HEADS THE PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT AND, BELOW THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, HE AND MEHTA HAVE THE GREATEST INFLUENCE OVER INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY. WE SUSPECT BILATERAL RELATIONS WILL LOOM LARGER IN THIS MEETING THAN THAT WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER: THE ATTITUDE OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION TOWARD INDIA, THE NUCLEAR
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PROBLEM AND BILATERAL AID. COHEEN. UNQUOTE VANCE

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